

Student privacy case moved to May

KENDRICK CALFEE
Editor-in-Chief | @calfee_kc

The scheduled hearing for a case involving a Northwest student who was charged with invasion of privacy, a Class E felony, has been moved to May 17 after he appeared in court Tuesday.

Logan D. Fainter, 19, appeared in court April 12 with his attorney, who requested the case be moved to a later date. Associate Circuit Judge Robert Rice approved the proposal and set a preliminary hearing for 2 p.m. May 17.

Fainter was arrested by University police after an investigation into two reports of a suspect recording individuals in a female bathroom on the third floor of Millikan Hall.

In arraignment, Fainter entered a not-guilty plea. The case was originally set for docket call March 1 in a criminal setting. The case was granted continuance to April, and after his most recent appearance, again to May.

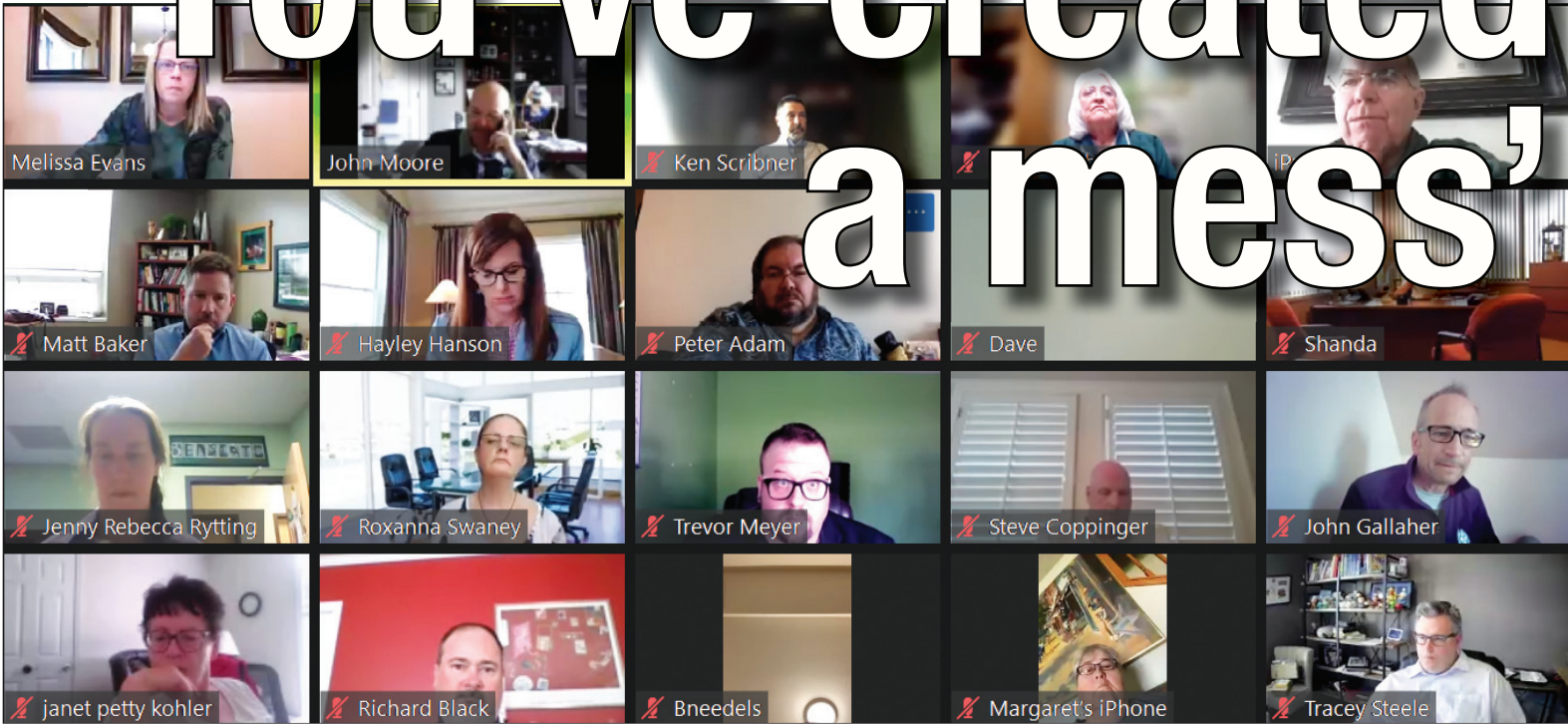
While it is still under investigation, UPD declined to comment on the details of the ongoing case.

According to a probable cause statement from University police, two female students completed voluntary written reports describing similar incidents that took place Jan. 27 and Feb. 5. The voluntary reports described a white male pointing a cell phone camera over or under the shower stall they occupied while they were nude.

Both victims verified they did not give anyone consent to photograph, film, videotape, produce or otherwise create an image of them in the shower.

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‘You’ve created a mess’



A majority of the open session of the April 12 Board of Regents meeting was dedicated to a time for public comment. Regents agreed not to respond to any questions at that time. Another public comment session will be held at its May 4 meeting.

Northwest community members voice concerns at Regents meeting

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

Just 11 days after President John Jasinski sent an “All That Jazz” email saying that the Board of Regents decided not to renew his contract, 168 community members, faculty, staff and students joined a Zoom meeting with the Board to express their concerns about the Regent’s decisions and the lack of transparency that has followed.

Regent Chair John Moore said the Board would be in “listen-only mode,” and would not be replying to any of the public comments. Regent Mel Tjeerdsma was the only regent not in attendance.

Ken Scribner, 1987 Northwest graduate, has remained active in the University as a Founding 50 donor, a contributor to the Agricultural Learning Center, and has a scholarship endowment for first-generation students. He addressed Chair Moore directly.

Scribner said he and Moore sat down and spoke two years ago after he became aware of the dissension between Moore and President Jasinski.

“At that point in time, you made it known to me that your challenges were related to the way a request for a statue of Mel Tjeerdsma in front of his building was rejected,” Scribner said. “You didn’t disagree with the rejection; you disagreed with the way it was rejected. And if that is one of the key drivers that have driven you to continue to pursue his removal from office after two plus years, I challenge you to make sure you’re thinking about the

students of which we care for.”

“Please make sure that as you continue to make decisions for the best of the University, that you do so with the mindset of the students and not with a conversation that happened two years ago. You’ve made your pain with that,” Scribner said. “Go on and think of the students and the University. If you look for a new president, make sure you use qualifications that are as equal to or outstanding to what we have in place today.”

“We agreed not to reply, so I won’t,” Moore said in response.

Tracey Steele, 1993 Northwest graduate, wrote a letter looking for answers on the Board’s decision after confusion of Jasinski’s nonrenewal. The letter has over 130 signatures in total.

“In that letter, we call on the Board to provide transparency into the decision to oust President Jasinski,” Steele said. “I understand there are certain privacy considerations, but I would urge you to not use those legitimate concerns as a pretext to entirely conceal your decision-making process in this matter or any other.”

Steele then went on to question the metrics the decision to not renew Jasinski’s contract was made on and why the Board has lacked transparency with voting on the contract. He said the process was “troubling” and “a cause for concern.” He also mentioned the possibility of a conflict due to the Tjeerdsma statue, along with other issues.

SEE REGENTS | A4

Voting reveals 100th Student Senate representatives



Internal Relations Vice Chair Garrison Kennedy and Internal Relations Chair Elizabeth Motazedi speak at the Student Senate meeting March 22. Motazedi will serve as the next Senate president.

KENNEDY KALVODA
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

After a week of voting, the official results for the 100th Student Senate were finalized. The president for next year will be sophomore Elizabeth Motazedi, vice president is junior Dami Popoola, secretary is junior Garrison Kennedy and treasurer is Jillian McNamara.

The Missourian was unable to obtain the official results of the election despite an official request (see the sidebar story for additional information).

Motazedi, Student Senate president elect, said she is grateful for the opportunity to serve in such capacity for the next school year.

“One thing I hope to do in my time on exec is to increase the involvement within Senate and on campus,” Motazedi said. “I am ready to not only get myself into the full swing of things but motivate other Bearcats to do the same.”

“I am so honored to have been elected to this position. I am looking forward to being able to serve the students of Northwest in new ways,” McNamara said. “I hope to increase campus-wide awareness of what Student Senate can do for organizations, as well as students as a whole. I also hope to spark interest in students

to join Student Senate and have that desire to have a voice for positive change at Northwest.”

“It has been a surreal last two weeks for me. I am grateful to everyone who voted for me, and I cannot wait to begin working during my tenure,” Popoola said. “My plan is to support the Senate president in whatever way and form required in order to inspire, impact and include all the students here at Northwest. We hope to achieve these goals with whoever the incoming president of the University is and cannot wait to get started.”

The off-campus representatives are Brayden Major, Drew Belden, Sophia Sander and Zayden Rawlings. There is one off-campus representative position open.

On-campus representative is Zoe Chagnon. There are four on-campus representative positions that remain open.

Sophomore class president is Chloe DeVries, and sophomore class representatives are Lucas Prater, Grace Heater and McKenna Grimmer.

Junior class president is Jenna Byrd, and junior class representatives are Carson Siebert, Joe Connelly and Jaelee Pittel.

SEE SENATE | A4

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Northwest President John Jasinski announced via “All That Jazz” April 1 that the Board of Regents — the University’s highest governing body — would not be renewing his contract. He will be forced to vacate his post.

The timing of the announcement caused some in the immediate aftermath to look at the announcement as a

joke. When it became clear it was not a holiday prank, opinions started flooding in from students, faculty, staff and alumni.

While the online reaction to Jasinski’s eventual dismissal by the Board has been largely in favor of Jasinski, some have sided with the Board. Those not dismayed by Jasinski’s inevitable departure have said it’s time for “new blood” in the president’s office.

Jasinski has had a reputation as a popular president in the Northwest community. Many online statements pointed to his propensity to take selfies and speak with community members at University functions as the thing they will remember most about Northwest’s president.

In an effort to accurately gauge the climate on campus surrounding the issue, the Missourian asked students and faculty about their opinions on the Board’s decision.

“WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE REGENTS NOT RENEWING PRESIDENT JASINSKI’S CONTRACT?”



“I think the Board feels like there’s a certain amount of time someone should be here before we need something new. On the other hand, he’s very well liked, so I’m on the fence.”

Rhonda Brown
Instructor of Mathematics & Statistics

“It’s a common thing that happens among colleges, so it’s kind of amazing he’s lasted this long. But, from what I’ve seen in Dr. J, he’s fantastic, and there’s no need to replace him. I’ll be sad that he’s leaving.”

Jared Carlton | Northwest Student



“I feel like there’s more to this than it seems, and I agree with Dr. Jasinski that we need to be looking critically at the Board of Regents.”

Shelby Norman | Northwest Student



“I really would like to hear more of a response from the Board of Regents on why Dr. Jasinski shared information with us and did a great job communicating, so I think the Regents should do the same. The wording Dr. J used was very professional, but it sounded like it was something that maybe we should be asking more about.”

Crystal Combs | Instructor of Computer Science & Information Systems



“I feel like the Board of Regents may not have been thinking with the best interests of the students or faculty. It seems like there’s something more going on because Dr. Jasinski has done nothing but help the Northwest campus.”

Vanessa Purcell | Northwest Student



“I believe that Dr. Jasinski has done a lot of great things for the University in terms of being an advocate for Northwest and showing the rest of the region the great things that Northwest does. I know that we’re really going to miss him.”

Devlin Scofield | Assistant Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences



“I’m kind of against it. He’s been doing such a good job at Northwest, so I don’t know why they’re getting rid of him. He’s so supportive of everyone, and the Board of Regents is being weird by not telling us why.”

Liz Peterson | Northwest Student

City appoints new mayor, mayor pro-tem

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

At the first City Council meeting since the April municipal election, Councilman Tye Parsons was sworn back in, and just minutes after, approved as the new mayor of Maryville.

“I’m honored that the Council would trust me with being mayor for the next year,” Parsons said. “I’ve watched Rachael and Ben both serve our city with distinction during their time as mayor, and I hope to continue that tradition.”

The Council also approved Dannen Merrill as the new mayor pro-tem.

In her report of the city’s budget, Finance Director Denise Town said Maryville received a payment of \$11,276.73 from unclaimed American Rescue Plan Act funds. These funds will be added to the current unallocated funds and will be reallocated at a later date, City Manager Greg McDanel said.

The Council later approved a Subrecipient Agreement with St. Francis Hospital Foundation and a Missouri non-profit corporation to help establish a Mental Health Assistance Program at Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville. The city will use \$20,000 from the ARPA funds to help the program with transportation, medication and counseling.

Megan Jennings from the St. Francis Hospital Foundation said mental health resources have been identified as a large need in the community for a while based on a community health needs as-

essment. “We believe that after this pandemic, it’s bringing another pandemic, which involves a mental health crisis,” Jennings said. “After last year’s gala, we brought together a community coalition and committee of mental health leaders, and we have been creating plans for what we believe are the top four areas, which are access to care, access to care in crisis, education and advocacy.”

Councilwoman Rachel Martin said she and Parsons both attended the St. Francis Gala Feb. 19 and talked about the city making a donation to the mental health efforts.

“When we were discussing during this if we wanted to kick off the fundraising with something substantial from the city of Maryville, I had no doubts we would all support that,” Martin said.

Parsons agreed.

“I can think of no better usage of this money than to help support our mental health needs in our community and our county, so I commend you and I commend the St. Francis Board for your work towards meeting this need,” Parsons said.

Just under a month after approving an initial agreement that allowed a partnership for dispatch services between Maryville Public Safety and Worth County Emergency Services, a proposal for an amendment to the original contract was presented to the Council.

The original proposal said that Worth County would be charged \$4,500 a month in exchange for the dispatch services, but an additional \$500 a month



SILVIA ALBERTI PHOTOGRAPHER
Tye Parsons shakes hands after being nominated city mayor during the April 11 City Council meeting. The previous mayor was Benjamin Lipiec. Parsons was appointed by the City Council to complete an unexpired term held by Renee Riedel until April 2019. He was then elected in April of 2019 to serve a three-year term.

will be added to the bill.

The additional \$500 will be used for database routing and network services that are necessary to provide services to Worth County.

Other City Council Business:

Maryville recently hired Matthew Smith as the new public works director and DeAnn Davison as the city’s first tourism director.

The Council approved an increase for

domestic violence court case surcharges to go from \$2 to \$4 per case.

South Main construction continues to be ahead of schedule, and the construction company hopes to finish the storm sewer drains and start working on curbs within the next three weeks.

Façade Improvement Grants have had six applications so far, and the city hopes to announce the awards at the end of this week.



SILVIA ALBERTI PHOTOGRAPHER
DeAnn Davison, Maryville’s new tourism director, stands in front of Maryville City Hall. Davison has been a part of the Maryville community for many years. She is a Northwest alumna and also part of Maryville Downtown Improvement Organization, where she became more involved in Maryville’s affairs.

Northwest alumna becomes first Maryville tourism board director

KENNEDY KALVODA
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

As COVID-19 guidelines start to ease, many cities are trying to recover and boost their overall tourism numbers. Maryville officials planned to do the same, starting by hiring DeAnn Davison, the city’s first tourism director. She started in the position on April 4.

This newly created position will have Davison guiding the city’s tourism efforts. She will be the part-time executive director of the Maryville Downtown Improvement Organization, which focuses on making improvements to and revitalizing downtown Maryville. This nonprofit organization was established in 2015. Davison said she plans to bring her 10 years of experience in marketing and community relations to this new position.

Although she is not originally from Maryville, Davison said coming to Northwest as a student made her fall in love with the city, and it was what persuaded her to stay in Maryville and become more involved with the town and the community.

“As someone who came to college here 20 years ago and decided to make Maryville my home, this town has been so impactful for me at every stage of my adult life,” Davison said. “I want the very best for the businesses and citizens of this community and am excited to be an active part in the next chapter of Maryville. I think it’s important to give back to the communities that you’re in, so I’m excited to be able to do that.”

Davison has been a part of the Maryville community for many years, as she got her bachelor’s degree in

broadcasting and her master’s in business administration and marketing from Northwest. She also was the marketing specialist for the University and the marketing coordinator for Aramark for a total of 19 months. She eventually decided to become further involved in Maryville’s affairs by becoming a part of MDIO.

“I’ve been involved with downtown Maryville for 6 years, so I was very familiar with downtown and what this position would be, and so that’s why I was interested in applying,” Davison said.

She was a general member of the organization before transitioning to the position of subcommittee head. Davison eventually became a member of the MDIO Board, which is how she came across the director position.

Davison said she is looking forward to making connections in the community and around the state in order to help Maryville grow. The main challenge of the position will be its newness, she said, a learning experience for both herself and the community.


Davison said a tourism director is important for any city to have in order to help boost overall tourism numbers and to help keep the cities from declining in tourists.

“In order to survive, you need to grow. In order to grow, you need people to see what you can offer not only a tourist but someone living here,” Davison said. “I think it’s important to bring people in and show them, whether they’re already a member of the community or someone visiting, the different things that Maryville has to offer.”

Worship in Maryville

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Missouri lifts herbicide ban in five counties

JAKE PRATER
News Reporter | @JakobLPrater

Farmers in five Missouri counties – Barton, Bates, Cedar, Saint Clair and Vernon – are once again free to use the Enlist brand of herbicides to spray on their crops after a previous restriction by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in January was reversed.

Enlist herbicides, which are usually used on corn, soybeans and cotton, are strictly weed control, used to prevent weeds from growing in farmers’ fields. The ban was initially enacted in counties where the threatened American burying beetle resides, out of fear it would harm the insect.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture led a coalition of other states’ agriculture groups, pushing for further research about the herbicide’s effect on the burying beetle. The EPA’s Enlist herbicide ban has been reversed in 132 counties through eight states across the Midwest and the South.

The other states lifting bans on the herbicides are Arkansas, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Ohio and South Dakota. The herbicide can now also be used in six east Texas counties.

The American burying beetle once inhabited 35 states but lost 90% of its population and was officially listed as an endangered species in 1989. In 2020, the beetle’s population was updated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from endan-

gered to threatened.

The herbicide ban also included Corteva Inc., an agricultural chemical company. In February, Corteva submitted a label amendment proposing the use of Enlist herbicides in an additional 128 counties where the burying beetle was not found, based on updated range maps from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Once this amendment was passed, Corteva proposed the EPA consider the use of Enlist herbicides in previously-banned states and counties.

In March, Corteva submitted another label amendment, proposing the use of Enlist herbicides in six Minnesota counties. The herbicide was banned in these counties out of fear it would kill eastern massasauga rattlesnakes that resided in those counties based on the FWS’s 2020 range maps. However, once the EPA saw that the eastern massasauga rattlesnake was no longer present in Minnesota based on the FWS’s 2021 range maps, the ban was lifted.

The American burying beetle is currently under study at Oklahoma State University and might provide new and alternative methods of fighting bacteria and preserving meat.

The EPA looked into more data about the herbicide’s runoff levels if applied properly and determined that Enlist herbicides did not pose a threat in most counties. The EPA canceled the restriction just in time for the 2022 planting season.



MADDISYN GERHARDT PHOTOGRAPHER

Northwest students go to the R.T. Wright Farm to get hands-on learning with farm animals and a variety of different crops. Farmers in five Missouri counties are once again free to use the Enlist brand of herbicides to spray on their crops after a previous restriction by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was reversed.

FAINTER CONTINUED FROM A1

According to the UPD probable cause statement, Fainter gave written consent to a search of his phone without a warrant at 12:59 p.m. Feb. 10. The first victim identified her black Under Armour flip-flops in an image found in the search. The date and time stamp aligned with the original statement made by the first victim, and the sandals were placed into evidence.

The same probable cause statement said Fainter admit-

ted Feb. 13 to creating an image or a video of an unknown person without their consent at 9:09 p.m. Jan. 27 in the female bathroom on the third floor of Milikan Hall. He admitted to doing the same to another person Feb. 5, according to the statement.

In Missouri, Class E felonies are the least severe in terms of punishment. They are punishable by up to four years in prison, one year in jail or a fine of up to \$10,000. Under this felony class, there may also be a chance for probation.

CRIME LOG for the week of April 14

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

- April 11**
There is an open investigation for invasion of privacy in Parking Lot 38.
- April 10**
There is a closed investigation for two liquor law violations in Franken Hall.
- April 7**
There is a closed investigation for stalking.
There is a closed investigation for sexual assault in a residential hall.

Maryville Police Department

- April 10**
A summons was issued to **Joshua D. Gary-Turner**, 20, for failure to appear in court on the 300 block of North Main Street.
- April 9**
There is an ongoing investigation for harassment on the 200 block of East Seventh Street.
- A summons was issued to **Scott A. David**, 57, for failure to appear in court on the 300 block of North Main Street.
- April 8**
There is an ongoing investigation for stealing by deceit on the 400 block of North Main Street.
- There was an accident between an unknown driver and **Zachary W. Smith**, 23, on U.S. Highway 71 Bypass and East South Avenue.

- April 5**
There was an accident between **Ashley Chubick** and **Clarence Vinzant**, 70, on the 500 block of East Seventh Street.
- A summons was issued to **Scott A. David**, 57, for failure to appear in court on the 300 block of North Main Street.
- March 30**
There is an open investigation for burglary on the 200 block of East First Street.

REGENTS CONTINUED FROM A1

“We’ve heard rumblings of personality clashes, maybe a dispute over a statue or an argument over whether to delay a football game,” Steele said. “While none of these is a legitimate reason to make a decision like this, I’m under no illusion that the members of the Board who are set on replacing President Jasinski are going to change their minds today or anytime soon. That’s why I’m focused on the process, which seems fatally flawed given the available information, because those flaws will affect the search for a new president and that person’s ability to effectively lead Northwest, and calling on you to pledge to perform your duties with the maximum amount of transparency possible going forward.”

Patrick Harr, a Board of Regents member from 2013 to 2019 and who served as the chair during the last four years of his term, expressed concern about the decision for the nonrenewal being private and about how people have been reacting on social media.

“My plea to the Board would be to figure out some way to get everybody on the same page because I think this can have long-standing issues with alumni donations and concerns of how people react to what the Board does,” Harr said. “They may not trust the Board if things are done in a hidden fashion that people think will have an effect on the long-term survival of the University.”

Associate professor David Shadinger said he sent an email of his statement to the Board before the beginning of the meeting. Shadinger was the former president of the Faculty Senate at Northwest, and he was the president of the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates. At the meeting, he addressed the Board as the president of American Association of University Professors Northwest chapter.

He said this decision from the Regents rejects the virtues that are held by faculty, administration, alumni and parents at Northwest.

“So, I would ask, how can faculty honestly expect their students to exhibit the virtues of hard work, loyalty, justice, honesty and sincere communication when those at the highest level, those charged with the welfare of Northwest, do not?” Shadinger said. “By publicly stating that the outstanding job performance of the University’s top administrative officer is ‘not enough,’ you have set a clear and obvious threat to the en-

tire administration and created serious alarm for the faculty and staff.”

“The Board of Regents is duty bound by your state-mandated statutory obligations to publicly address the politically motivated backroom decision making and the faint-hearted lack of transparency, which will now plague this institution for years to come,” he said. “You have created a mess, and you must fix it, honestly, openly, fairly, publicly.”

Student Regent Connor Thompson relayed concerns he has heard from students. Across social media, Thompson said he has seen love for President Jasinski and confusion as to why his contract was not renewed.

“Right now, we see that we’re doing so good, and we’re, like, one of the most financially stable and successful institutions in the state of Missouri and with a popular president that is receiving high marks from a majority of the student population, which is a rarity in any profession. And we’re just kind of letting him go,” Thompson said. “But there just needs to be more transparency and the reasoning for the new direction. Because right now, it’s hard to justify him being fired when we keep talking about

“You have created
a mess, and
you must fix it,
honestly, openly,
fairly, publicly.”
-DAVID
SHADINGER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

how great the University is.”

Jada VanDuyne, a senior political science major and student ambassador, said she connects with families on a daily basis who acknowledge President Jasinski’s accomplishments. Her main concerns came from the structure of the Board.

“My plea to the Board is to think about how do the Board of Regents strive to serve our community and our students in a nonpartisan way? And why, as a Board that influenced the lives of Northwest students, are there not more students on the Board? Or why does the single student represen-

tative not get a vote?” VanDuyne said.

Margaret Nelson, a Northwest 1987 and 1989 graduate, said the Board seems to be divided, vulnerable and in chaos, causing it to be weak. She went on to say she has heard people call Northwest “too liberal,” in which she said that different points of view should be welcomed rather than having closed minds.

“I believe that only fools with jet-tison, a proven performer liking or not liking someone, or not agreeing with their ideology should not be a factor,” Nelson said. “Performance should be the bottom line.”

Nina Dewhirst asked five questions to the Board, one being about the Regents political parties.

“Some people questioned the political affiliations of Board members, as those apply to the Jasinski decision,” Dewhirst said. “Can you confirm that Board members have not been approached or otherwise influenced by political actors to replace Dr. Jasinski?”

Wendy Mayer, 1999 Northwest graduate, said she recognizes the Board has the opportunity to make decisions on behalf of the University, but she questioned why the Regents waited so long to look for a new president if the Board told Jasinski two years ago it would not be renewing his contract.

“Why the decision to hire an interim for a year and then hold a nationwide search?” Mayer said. “Why, if we knew this was happening three years ago, was a nationwide search not begun a year ago so that there could be a smooth transition between Dr. J and also not have a stock app interim and then leave our University in a lurch for a year in the meantime?”

She then brought up some reactions within the community, saying some Bearcat alumni said they no longer want their children going to Northwest because of the uncertainty for the future. She urged the Board to keep that in mind while continuing to make decisions for the University.

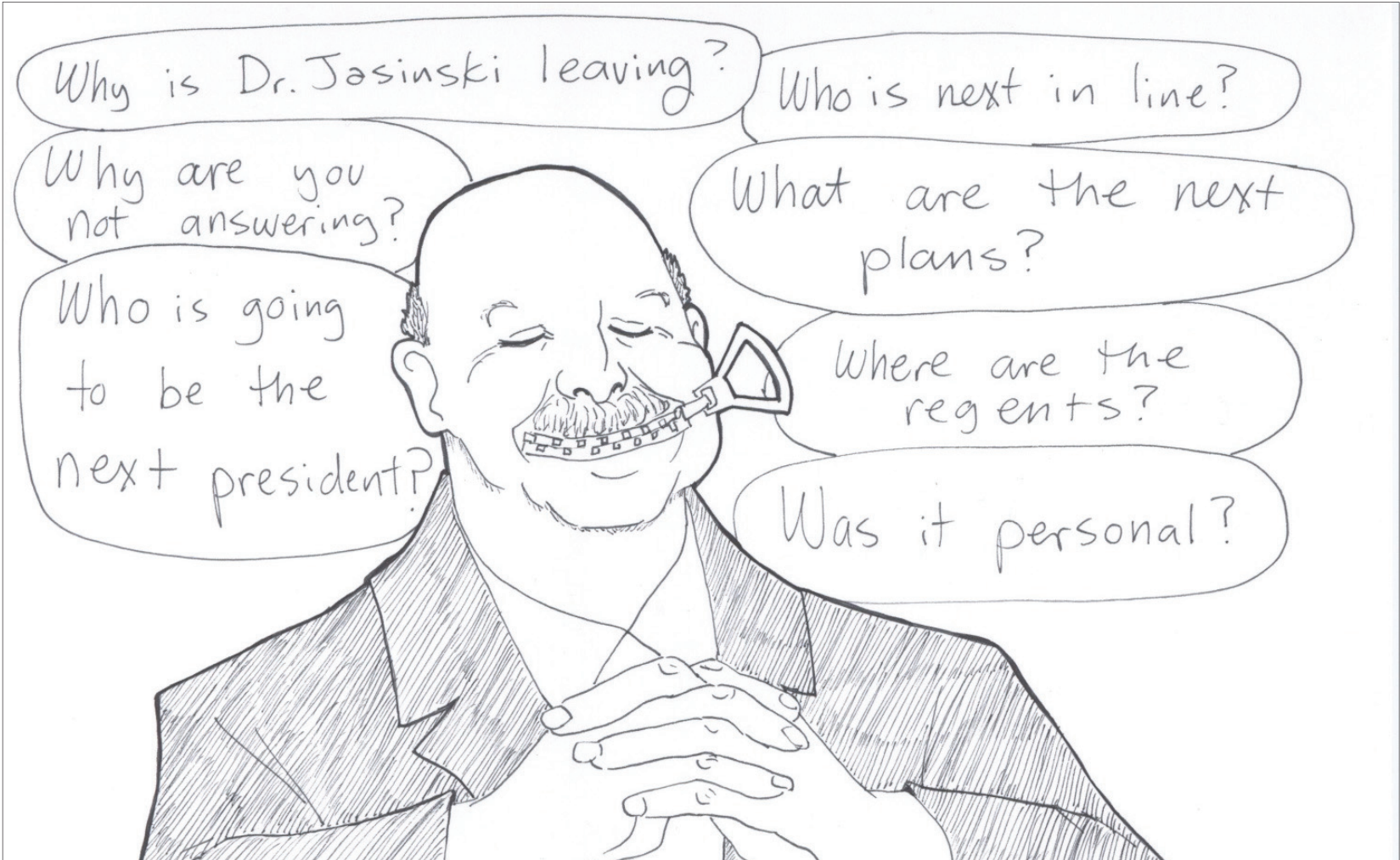
After hearing all the public comments, the Regents then moved into a closed session.

“I’m sure the remaining members of the Board, we may not agree with them all, but we certainly appreciate you taking time to voice them, and we very much appreciate that,” Moore said. “There are a lot of passionate people who really care about this University, as do we. So thank you for taking time to participate today.”

Two other agenda items will be voted on at the May 4 Board of Regents meeting to increase transparency, along with another public comment section.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

The Northwest Missourian Editorial Board has elected to shift the “Letters From...” project online for this week. The Board, after careful consideration, decided to run the Our View in print this week given the nature of the subject matter and its importance to Northwest. The “Letters From...” project will be run in print next week. Those wishing to read them online should visit nwmissourinews.com.



ALEXANDRIA MESZ NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

REGENTS MUST ANSWER COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Those wishing, yearning, for answers from the Northwest Board of Regents on its decision to not renew President John Jasinski’s contract were left with nothing but the same questions following the Board’s April 12 meeting.

It became clear early on in the meeting that it was a meaningless endeavor. Regent Mel Tjeerdsmma — who later became a focal point in multiple statements from alumni — wasn’t even in attendance. Regent Jason Klindt attended the Zoom call late and couldn’t be heard clearly due to technical difficulties.

The Zoom was a mess of open mics and interruptions, with regents talking over each other in the brief moments before the public comments even started. Then Regent Chair John Moore announced that the Board had agreed to hear complaints, questions and concerns, but it would not be responding to them. The Regents didn’t shed any light at all on the decisions they made.

It became clear most action taken by someone connected to the Board would be from Secretary Melissa Evans calling the next name on the list and continually kicking out the people seeking to disrupt the Zoom.

If the Board, particularly the Regents who voted against extending Jasinski’s contract, were not already aware of the questions and concerns brought to them, then they are both woefully ignorant and egregiously incompetent.

The numerous inquiries posited by those in the Northwest community at the meeting were nothing new. They have all been circulating social media since April 1, when Jasinski announced the Board’s decision. They are ones asked to each Board member via email and asked — and normally outright ignored or answered with “no comment” — by the news section of this publication.

These were simple questions like: Why was Jasinski let go? What’s the next step? What does the Board expect out of the next president?

All of the above questions are ones the Re-

IF THE BOARD, PARTICULARLY THE REGENTS WHO VOTED AGAINST EXTENDING JASINSKI’S CONTRACT, WERE NOT ALREADY AWARE OF THE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS BROUGHT TO THEM, THEN THEY ARE BOTH WOEFULLY IGNORANT AND EGREGIOUSLY INCOMPETENT.

- EDITORIAL BOARD

gents had copious amounts of time to answer. Not only has the Board met for numerous closed sessions since the decision was made public, but it apparently had two years — according to Moore — between the time the decision regarding Jasinski was made and the time that it was announced to craft a statement.

Instead, the Board has been eager to offer no answers to the students who attend Northwest, the faculty and staff who work at the University, or the alumni who donate to it.

The public comment section of the April 12 meeting was not a solution or a gesture of good faith; it was an appeasement strategy. Regents who wanted Jasinski out knew exactly what was going to be said. They knew they would receive hollow thank-you’s from those in attendance for allowing them to speak. They knew they would have to endure 30 minutes — or less — of comments and questions they didn’t really want to hear before going into closed session. And they knew they wouldn’t have to do anything to address them.

The addition of the public comment period — one Moore verbally patted himself on the back for adding at the beginning of the meeting — was nothing more than a PR move. It was a stunt, an attempt to get the public off the Regents’ backs with a proverbial “We hear you and are looking into your concerns.” The decision has already been made, and they don’t care what anyone in the Northwest community who spoke in the meeting had to say.

The reasons for Jasinski’s dismissal are likely personal, something the man himself alluded to in his initial statement, and something Regent Deborah Roach confirmed in hers.

“It is political or personal, in my opinion very much so,” Roach said in her statement.

Because of that, we will likely never get clear answers on what actually happened. We will continue to get our time wasted by effete “leaders” on the Board.



CORBIN SMITH OPINION EDITOR

Northwest track and field sophomores Ally Hammond (far left), Kyah Luhring (center left), Lexie Gilbert (center right) and freshman Chloe Saenz (far right) gather after running the 4x100 meter relay at the SBU Bearcat Invite on April 2 in Bolivar, Missouri. The quad finished with a second-place time of 46.95 seconds.

CALI
CONTINUED FROM A8

Masters explained that the process of choosing who’s going and who isn’t going is a difficult one. He and his staff looked at who’s ready and who’s recovering from injury and made a decision without taking any risks.

Among the group going, both the men’s and women’s 4x100 meter relays are attending, and Masters said both have a chance to come back with high-level provisional times and possibly a school record. Sophomore Blake Morgan, who injured his toe at the

SBU Invite April 2 in Bolivar, Missouri, will also be competing.

“I mean, we’re gonna have Oregon, USC — you name it — UCLA in heats with our kids, and that’s pretty cool,” Masters said. “It’s an unbelievable experience when you’re lining up against ... one of the best programs in the country. The cool thing is, if they do, they belong in that heat. Track and field is different because it’s not about D1, D2, D3. It’s about the time and the performance. We’ll compete against some very high-level competition from major D1 programs.”

Those who aren’t making the trip to California will still be competing, as they will

take part in the Central Missouri Mules Relays April 15 in Warrensburg, Missouri.

For the rest of the team, though, they will be in the Golden State competing against some of the country’s best track runners.

“It’s a business trip, absolutely, and we are busy from day two. We get there (Tuesday) night, and Wednesday, people are going. So it’s gonna be busy Wednesday through Saturday. I will say that, after Long Beach, we’ll have some time to maybe go out to dinner and maybe hit the beach a little bit — try and have some fun.”

“But only after the work is done.”



WESLEY MILLER ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Maryville soccer senior midfielder Lauren Cullin attempts to keep the Spoofhounds’ offense in full swing during their 4-2 loss against Pleasant Hill on April 5 at the Hound Pound.

START
CONTINUED FROM A8

“It was really cool to see a lot of girls step up,” Tolson said.

Maryville was able to secure a win over Mid-Buchanan, but it did not stop the team’s worst start in five years.

The Spoofhounds will have a chance to take a huge step toward achieving Tolson’s goal of capturing a conference title when they face MEC foe Chillicothe (8-2) April 14.

While the two squads are conference rivals, there’s more to this matchup than that. The Spoofhounds and Hornets met in sectionals in the 2019 MSH-SAA State Tournament, where Maryville won 2-0 and sent Chillicothe home. Two years later, Maryville knocked off Chillicothe for the 2021 Class 2 District 8 title.

“There’s gonna be some extra motivation there that we’re

going to have to be ready for,” Tolson said.

Swink said she wouldn’t be surprised if the regular season isn’t the only time the two teams meet. She wants to not just win, but she also wants to examine what they do for possible matchups in the future.

While they have already spent a lot of time traveling, this will be one of the longer journeys, with a nearly 111-mile trip to the home of sliced bread for the Spoofhounds.

While she would prefer to stay home and play in front of the Maryville faithful, Swink said, it’s worth it for these types of matches.

“I think there’s gonna be a little tension, but that’s how the game works,” Swink said. “It’s gonna make it more exciting to have that history. I think just keeping a level head and knowing we’re there to just play soccer and play our game will help us keep a straight lookout for the outcome and get the job done.”



JADEN FERGUSON MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Sophomore catcher Lauren Gray sends a ball to center field during the Bearcats’ first game of a doubleheader against Northeastern State on April 9 at the Bearcat Softball Field. The 12-4 triumph marked Northwest’s first MIAA win of the year.

TRIUMPH
CONTINUED FROM A8

The Bearcats made quick work of the RiverHawks in the top of the fourth inning, earning three straight outs. Northwest had the bases loaded when sophomore utility Lauren Gray stepped up to bat. Gray took one swing and sent the ball over center field for a grand slam, giving Northwest an 11-2 lead.

The RiverHawks battled in the top of the fifth inning and earned two runs, but the Bearcats composed themselves and achieved the third out to put the ‘Cats at the plate again. Pieper hit a line drive, and junior outfielder Brylee Kemper raced to home plate to give the Bearcats the 12-4 win.

The Bearcats hit .500 in game one and a season-high five home runs. Daugherty and Gray led the way with four RBIs apiece. The victory gives Northwest its first MIAA win of the year and serves as first-year coach Naomi Tellez’s first career MIAA win.

“It’s great to get the monkey off our back; now we know that we can do it. Northeastern is not a bad team at all, but we came out swinging, which helped us for sure,” Tellez said. “Our offense really carried us through.”

Northwest lost the second

game against Northeastern State 7-4, but Tellez was still impressed with her team’s hitting.

“In game two, (hitting) kind of halted a little bit, but at the same time, we still put runs on the board,” Tellez said.

The Bearcats turned around to play No. 2 Rogers State (34-3) April 10 and lost the first game 15-1 before losing the second — both in five innings. Nolte scored the only run against the Hillcats in the bottom third inning with a home run over center field. Junior catcher Madison Friest was the only player to record a hit in game two.

The ‘Cats had a quick turnaround and picked up their second MIAA win with a 6-0 triumph of Fort Hays State April 12. Nolte had a home run to center field in the top of the second inning, and Friest had a home run to right field in the top of the third inning to lead the ‘Cats.

“I think we just kept with the momentum,” Tellez said. “We kind of said, ‘Flush it, and let’s move on.’”

Northwest lost the second game against the Tigers 11-3. Gray had two RBIs, and Daugherty had a home run in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Northwest continues its homestand with a doubleheader against MIAA rival Missouri Western at noon and 2 p.m. April 15 at Bearcat Softball Field.

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WALK THE TALK:

Position to watch for football? And more

JON WALKER
Sports Editor
@ByJonWalker



It’s been a while, so welcome back to Walk The Talk, a mail-bag column with all of the answers to your questions regarding Northwest Athletics.

Let’s see. The last time we talked, you all asked which track and field event I would participate in, if there was reason to be concerned about Northwest men’s basketball’s loss to Central Oklahoma and if Ben McCollum and company had a lineup strong enough for a national title.

In hindsight, those are all laughable. Maybe this week’s questions will be, too.

What position group are you most excited to see in this week’s spring game?

I’m really, really interested to see how the wide receivers shake out. Imoni Donadelle, Kaden Davis and Alec Tatum all graduated, and they combined for 256 catches, 3,944 yards receiving and 34 touchdowns throughout their time in the green and white.

It’s a tall task, but Northwest has the benefit of being a run-based offense with a stifling defense.

Rich Wright and his staff went out and nabbed eight wide-outs as part of the 2022 recruiting class, including Maryville’s own Tate Oglesby and Division I transfer Tyson Priddy, who was previously at Kansas State.

The running backs will be interesting, too, with the departures of Al McKeller and Davonte’ Green, but the receivers are going to be the group I keep an eye on during Northwest football’s spring game.

Are you going to take over for Trevor Hudgins as point guard?

Yes, all 5-foot-4 of me.

Is Northwest a basketball school now more than football or a more complete Athletics Department with track and field and other sports on the rise?

It’s tricky, right? Northwest men’s basketball has won four national titles in the last five NCAA Tournaments, and Northwest football has captured six national titles over the last couple of decades.

It truly is turning into a complete athletic department, though. Volleyball has found its groove within the last handful of years, competing for the MIAA on a yearly basis. Soccer is ascending with Marc Gordon at the helm. Northwest track and field, along with cross country, almost always sends athletes to compete in the NCAA Championships.

That, of course, is just the tip of the iceberg. Things have only gotten better for most of the Northwest programs during my four years in Maryville, and I don’t see that slowing down any time soon.

If Northwest were to move to D1, would that keep Coach McCollum here for the long term?

Here’s the thing: Ben McCollum isn’t too caught up in what level he coaches at.

McCollum has continuously referenced that the only thing that would yank him out of Maryville would be a “can’t-turn-down opportunity.” That isn’t about money, though. It’s not about selling out some massive arena for a nationally televised game, either.

He loves the support from the Northwest faithful, and that’s seemingly been the anchor to McCollum’s metaphorical ship.

“I’ve always loved college towns,” he told the Missourian on April 5. “The only thing that would ever attract that is something similar on a considerably bigger scale.”

Walk The Talk is a mailbag on all things Northwest Athletics. To submit a question for the next edition of the mailbag, tweet @ByJonWalker or email j.walker.missourian@gmail.com.

Baseball slips in Western series

LANDEN CRABTREE
Missourian Reporter | NWMSports

Northwest baseball junior pitcher Alexander Lovin placed his left foot, followed by his right, on the mound at Griffon Park in St. Joseph.

He was staring down Missouri Western senior second baseman Chaz Verduzco, who was looking to build on the 3-0 lead the Griffons garnered up to that point in the bottom of the fifth inning.

It took three pitches for Verduzco to hone in on Lovin, and he used the fourth of the at-bat to send a home run over the left-field wall. That moment served as the pin to the Bearcats’ balloon in their 7-2 loss to the Griffons Sunday afternoon in the rubber match of a three-game series.

“I think they got a couple of baserunners on and hit a big home run against us with the wind blowing out to left,” Northwest coach Darin Loe said. “They did a good job, offensively, of getting baserunners on in game one. And game three, they came up with the big hits we didn’t.”

Northwest opened up with a big lead early against the Griffons in the second game of the season, scoring eight runs in the first four innings. Senior center fielder Donovan Warren got the scoring start-



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest pitcher Brandin Hallier throws a pitch in the Bearcats’ 10-8 double header against Rockhurst April 5.

ed with a two-RBI. The Bearcats got great production from freshman utility Ryan Williams, who had a two-RBI double down the line in the fourth.

Williams finished the game 4-for-4 with a walk and three RBIs in Northwest’s 14-4 victory — the Bearcats’ only win of the series. “The ball was just looking bigger that day — some days you see the ball better — and that day all the hard work paid off,” Williams said.

Maryville senior snaps steeplechase record at 33rd Gorilla Relays

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

Cale Sterling’s excitement built up all week as he anticipated his first 2,000-meter steeplechase of the year at the 33rd Annual Jock’s Nitch/PSU Gorilla Relays. The Maryville track and field senior started the race closer to the back, but as he worked through the pack of adolescent athletes and navigated the first water barrier, his excitement slowly turned to uncertainty.

Despite securing the lead early in the race, he found himself questioning whether that was the right tactic.

“I felt like that was the pace I should be running, but then I had a little bit of doubt in my head,” Sterling said. “Halfway through, like, lap two, I’m like, ‘Oh, did I just go a bit early?’ As I kept going, I kept hearing everyone else’s jumps get farther and farther back, and I was like, ‘All right, this is right.’”

The senior would continue to hear faint steps of his competition, as he crossed the line in a school- and meet-record time of 6 minutes, 34.04 seconds, and a 15-second margin of victory. The previous record was 6:34.41 set in 2013. The win excited Sterling because he “never had a chance to really win a whole lot” throughout his high school career.

Before the meet, Sterling reviewed the entered times list and joked with teammates Connor Blackford and Jag Galapin about potentially winning and breaking the meet record.

“I was jokingly saying, ‘Wouldn’t it be crazy if I go to Pitt State and get a meet record and win?’” Sterling said. “We

were just joking about how that was really out there, and then I crossed the line and thought, ‘Well, dang. That’s really close.’ That’s pretty cool to know that I’m up there with some of the better guys.”

Last season, coach Rodney Bade entered Sterling in 300-meter hurdle races to work on his technique while also finding points at the conference championship meet. With meets hosting the steeplechase, Bade said he’s happy the senior is able to compete in it this season.

“We were pretty confident he was going to do well,” Bade said. “Two hurdles in, one water jump in, he came out, and it was obvious: This kid knows what he’s doing. He just ran away from everyone.”

“He really is kind of a natural,” Bade said. “His hurdle style is a little bit more of a typical steeple style. He wants to go up and down and sort of float over. He’s in great shape — everything’s clicking right now. He’s racing so much better than he has in the past.”

Sterling said he was glad to get the experience of leading the majority of a race and competing in an event he doesn’t normally get to run. The experience will also aid him once the Spoofhound makes his transition to a Bulldog in the fall. Bade said that maybe a future Maryville athlete will look at the record board and Sterling’s record will inspire them to try the steeplechase.

Other ‘Hounds who traveled to Pittsburg, Kansas, finished high in the standings and posted new personal records.

Junior Jesus Flores-Hernandez competed in the high jump and 400-meter dash,



CORBIN SMITH OPINION EDITOR
Sophomore Kyah Luhning fights for the line in the 4x100 meter relay at the SBU Bearcat Invite April 2. Luhning anchored the relay to a second-place finish in a time of 46.95.

making this the first meet of the season he wouldn’t compete in the maximum amount of events allowed in a meet (4). He finished second in the high jump with a leap of 6 feet, 2 1/2 inches and finished third in the 400 with a personal-best time of 51.46.

Junior Keaton Stone placed sixth in both the long jump and triple jump. His mark of 19-8 1/2 in the long jump was a new outdoor personal best while his jump of 41-10 1/2 was an inch from his triple jump personal best. Stone also did all of this with a midcompetition equipment malfunction.

“He wasn’t expecting to finish that high in long jump,

and he actually did it all on a ripped shoe,” Bade said. “There’s a big rip on the side of his shoe, so those shoes are done. I didn’t even know if he’d make it through triple without having to borrow someone’s or something.”

Bade said Stone is continuing to prove that he’s a good jumper, and performing well on a ripped shoe did nothing but support his coach’s statement even more.

Next, the Spoofhounds will travel to Kansas City, Missouri, April 14 to compete in the Winnetonka Invitational. A slew of schools, ranging from Class 3 to Class 5, will create a diverse field of competition for the ‘Hounds.

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'Cats hit road for California meets



Northwest track and field sophomore Kyah Luhning fights for the finish line during 4x100 meter relay at the SBU Bearcat Invite on April 2 in Bolivar, Missouri. Luhning helped the relay to a second-place finish with a time of 46.95.

DAVID DERKS
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

The Northwest track and field team is changing its scenery, as it will fly to California for a busy four-day stretch of meets in Azusa, Walnut, Los Angeles and Long Beach, starting April 13 and ending April 16. "It's expensive," Masters said. "We can't take everybody, but we have four meets in four days, and we have kids going depending on their event. I think one day we're at three different meets." The Bearcats will start the trip with the Bryan Clay Invite in Azusa April 13-15 and the Cal State L.A. Twilight Open in Los Angeles April 13-14. The team will then compete in the Mt. SAC Relays in Walnut April 14-15 before finishing out the trip across to the Golden State at the Beach Invitational in Long Beach April 16. "We've had 58 degrees and windy," Masters said. "It doesn't really give us the opportunity to give us the marks we need to qualify for (the National Championships). That's why we go." Masters said the perfect weather is another reason for attending these meets across the

country. These meets will have low winds and warm weather, which makes for a great day of running and competing. Masters said there is another reason, however, for their attendance. They'll have some intense competition. "There are some unreal, like — 400 men entered in one meet's (5,000-meter race)," Masters said. "You can guarantee competition. You can guarantee great weather. It's the time of the year when it's time to see some big marks." Masters said the coaching staff doesn't want any of its kids entering the race as the best person in that heat. The coaches cherish the opportunity for one of the Bearcats to be last or near the middle of the heat because it's harder to put up those big marks when the competition is lacking. "If we get the mark and finish fifth or sixth or 10th in our heat, I don't care," Masters said. "We got the mark. The idea is not the place; the idea is simply the mark. Places are for conference championships and national championships — I don't care what you run at those meets, because it's all about the placing."

SEE CALI | A6

Spoofhounds hope to flip script on worst start in half decade

WESLEY MILLER
Asst. Sports Editor | @wesleymiller360

The first handful of games are out of the way for Maryville girls soccer, and the Spoofhounds find themselves facing the program's worst start since 2017. "We feel like we haven't played our best soccer yet," coach Chase Tolson said. The Spoofhounds have a 3-2 record prior to their match April 13 against Bishop LeBlond — a stark difference compared to the last four years, which featured no more than a single loss throughout the first five games. It is the worst record through the first five games of the season since the 2017 campaign when they started 2-2-1. While a number of teams would like to have started the season 3-2, for a team with six consecutive district titles, it can be a little nerve-wracking. For Tolson,

though, it's all about staying focused on the team's goals. "We want to win conference, and we think we can do that," Tolson said. Maryville's matchup with Bishop LeBlond was not finished in time for publication. One of the major reasons for Maryville's slow start is the strength of schedule to start the season. As of April 12, the Spoofhounds' first five opponents have a combined record of 19-16. Junior goalkeeper Abby Swink said the gauntlet to start the season has been tough, but it's something she welcomes. "It's a little difficult, especially with two to three games a week," Swink said. "Physically, it's a little hard on us, but in the long run, it will help a lot. We've learned a tremendous amount throughout the challenge." Part of the challenge for



Maryville soccer senior forward Arianne Skidmore (right) passes the ball downfield during the Spoofhounds' 4-2 loss to Pleasant Hill on April 5 at the Hound Pound. The 'Hounds, despite a 3-2 record, have their worst start since 2017.

Maryville was the contest against Mid-Buchanan (5-4) April 11. The 'Hounds escaped Faucett, Missouri, with the 2-1 win over the Dragons. Goals by Maryville senior forward Arianne Skidmore and Kennedy Kurz propelled the team to its third win, but it was the defense that kept the Dragons at bay. Despite surrendering one goal, the defense regrouped to ensure

ensuing possessions by the Dragons on the Spoofhounds' side of the pitch were short-lived. Swink, one of the leaders on defense, said the key to any game is communication, and that becomes especially true in games going down to the wire. "I just keep talking to my players — making sure they know I'm here — because once I stop talking, I feel like the connection be-

tween the defense and the rest of the field is lost," Swink said. Since the Spoofhounds have 13 underclassmen on the team, Tolson said early games are a good chance to build up the younger players' experience. He said he is proud of the way everyone on the team pitched in early on in the season.

SEE START | A6



Northwest sophomore pitcher Hayden Simmons winds up to pitch a 12-4 win over Northeastern State on April 9 at Bearcat Softball Field.

Daugherty helps softball capture first MIAA win of year against RiverHawks

JADEN FERGUSON
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

The sun was shining at Bearcat Softball Field, and the wind was calm and cool. Junior infielder Olivia Daugherty walked up to the plate, determined to put Northwest softball on the board. With a swift crack of the bat, the ball flew over the fence, and Daugherty found herself rounding third base before being greeted at home plate by her teammates' embraces. With the help of Daugherty's four RBIs, the Bearcats picked up their first conference win of the season with a 12-4 victory over MIAA foe Northeastern State April 9. Freshman first baseman Skylar Pieper and junior utility Jacee Winn led off the Bearcats' batting lineup in the bottom of

the first inning and reached first and second base, respectively. Daugherty walked up to the plate eager to take advantage of the two potential RBIs.

4

RBIs were tallied by junior Olivia Daugherty in the Bearcats' 12-4 win

"When the top of the lineup does well and gets on base, it for sure sets the tone for the rest of the game," Daugherty said. Daugherty didn't disappoint, as she launched a ball over the

left-field fence to take a 3-1 lead against the RiverHawks (21-18). Northwest (8-33) started its homerun frenzy in the bottom of the third inning and Daugherty walked up to the plate just like the first inning. She then bombed another ball over the left-field fence and was welcomed home with helmet slaps. "The Northeastern game gave me the confidence I've been needing," Daugherty said. "Having a solid game helps when I'm feeling like I'm in a slump." Junior infielder Hannah Blackford followed Daugherty by sending a ball over the right-field wall, and sophomore infielder Abby Nolte put a ball over center field to give the Bearcats the 6-2 lead at the end of the third.

SEE TRIUMPH | A6

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